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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, MARCH 4, 2003

PETITION OF

UNITED TELEPHONE - SOUTHEAST, INC.

CASE NO. PUC-2002-00153

For Extended Local Service between  
United's Sylvatus and Max Meadows  
Exchanges

FINAL ORDER

In July 2002, telephone customers in United Telephone-Southeast, Inc.'s ("United"), Sylvatus Exchange petitioned the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for Extended Local Service ("ELS") to United's Max Meadows Exchange. In August 2002, telephone customers in United's Max Meadows Exchange petitioned the Commission for ELS to its Sylvatus Exchange. On October 31, 2002, the Commission received from United a cost study for these two routes that was used to estimate the change in monthly rates that would result from the requested extension of local service.

Pursuant to the provisions of § 56-484.2 of the Code of Virginia, by Order dated December 3, 2002, the Commission directed United to poll its Sylvatus Exchange customers to determine whether a majority of those customers would be willing to pay an increase in rates for local calling to its Max Meadows

Exchange. Also, in that same Order, the Commission directed United to poll its Max Meadows Exchange customers to determine whether a majority of those customers would be willing to pay an increase in rates for local calling to its Sylvatus Exchange. The Order further directed United to file the results of its polls with the Commission no later than February 20, 2003.

On January 28, 2003, United filed the results of both polls. United noted that 1,694 ballots were mailed on December 18, 2002, to its Max Meadows Exchange customers and 319 (18.83 percent) were returned. The results further reflect that, of the ballots returned, 135 (42.32 percent) voted "yes," and 184 (57.68 percent) voted "no." In its filing concerning the Sylvatus Exchange, United noted that 864 ballots were mailed on December 18, 2002, and 258 (29.86 percent) were returned. The results further reflect that of the ballots returned, 166 (64.34 percent) voted "yes," and 92 (35.66 percent) voted "no."

NOW THE COMMISSION, upon consideration of the matter, is of the opinion and finds that because a majority of Max Meadows Exchange customers voted against extension of local service to the Sylvatus Exchange, the petition should be denied.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- (1) The petition is hereby denied.
- (2) There being nothing further to be done in this matter, this matter is hereby dismissed.